

Hiking a part of the Wicklow way in Ireland

The Wicklow Way is a signposted long-distance walking route (132 km) in the east of Ireland. The route runs south from Marlay Park, a golf course near Dublin's airstrip. Three counties are passed: Dublin, Wicklow and Carlow. The entire route can be done within a week.



At Tinahaly, in the valley of the River Derry.

We only walked part of the route: from the village of Tinahaly we walked north. The route south of Tinahaly, to Clonegal, would contain a lot of asphalt. Ireland does not have a public footpath like England has. For this reason, you sometimes have to walk the asphalt. In addition, the south-north route contains the most beautiful stages, the greatest chance of wind in the back and the prospect of a finish in a big city, namely Dublin. There you can visit, for example, Trinity College Dublin, where the 'Book of Kells' is kept and exhibited. This iconic masterpiece, dating from around the year 800, is one of the most beautiful and oldest books on earth and is one of Ireland's greatest and most valuable treasures. The makers were monks, they probably came from a monk community in Kells

Monastic community in Glendalough

The remains of a similar community of monks can also be found on the Wicklow Way, in Glendalough. This community was founded by St. Kevin in the sixth century. There you can visit a church in Romanesque style, St. Kevin's Kitchen, a chapel, the gate, St Kevin's cross and a round tower (Roundtower). But above all a serene atmosphere in a truly beautiful place! It is located in a valley between two waterfalls: a glacier valley. There is also a rippling, crystal clear river flowing along it.

When you have arrived here, you have already been introduced to the Glendalough valley. A U-shaped glacial valley with brown slopes, Irish green meadows and the occasional farmhouse. The whole gives a truly phenomenal view. There is also the possibility to admire the *Carawaystick Brook Waterfall* or climb the highest mountain of the Wicklow mountains (the Lugnaquilla 925m). This mountain is just not included in the route.



Hiking near Glendalough



Glendalough in the evening

Lough Tay: the most photographed spot on the route

In this valley, the English suffered the most crushing defeat in Ireland ever in 1580. This defeat could be the subject of lively conversation in the pub with a very distant descendant of the Irish captain at the time. 'Fiach Mac Aodha Ó Broin?' Plenty of stories! Whether or not encouraged by "*a perfect pint of Guinness*", of which – a member of – the brewery family of this name manages the Luggala estate. During the ascent of the Djouce mountain you have beautiful views of this. The Lough Tay, part of the estate and the most photographed spot of the Way, can also be seen from the mountain.



The view over Lough Tay during the ascent of Djouce mountain.

Djouce Mountain

Djouce mountain, 725m high, is another gem on this very varied route. Slowly you walk up along a color palette of vegetation. The route runs via narrow paths, sometimes over bielzen with chicken wire (*boardwalk*) because of the wet, soggy surface. Sometimes there are some rocks with increasingly sparse vegetation and open fields. The further up you go, the bigger the views become. That's what you do it for as a hiker, right? At the top of the Djouce is a simple "monument". Sit there and enjoy! As the book writer, hiker, TV creator and founder of the trail J.B. Malone did.

During the descent of the Djouce we thought – after crossing the *Darkle river* – we could see the famous Powerscourt waterfall of 121m height. Unfortunately, the park, where the waterfall is located, was only allowed to be entered when payment was made.

From Enniskerry we advise you to continue by public transport, for example to end up in Dublin. The buildings are getting denser because you are already almost in the suburbs of Dublin. From this town there is a direct bus to Dublin Central Bus Station.



No comment



St. Kevin church

More information about the Wicklow Way

- Our starting point: Tinahaly, easily accessible by public transport from Dublin airport: take the shuttle bus to Dublin CS, then the train to Rathdrum and from there the bus to Tinahaly.
- Difficulty: medium
- Wild camping is officially not allowed, but is often tolerated. If possible, seek permission from the landowner. But beware: wild camping is definitely not allowed in Glendalough.

Get a breath of fresh air in the Wicklow Mountains

Wicklow Mountains National Park is located right below the cozy Irish capital Dublin. A city trip can therefore easily be combined with a walk in the varied landscape of higher peatland, forests, rivers and lakes.



Djouce mountain (highway...)



Glenmallure valley